

**Biwabik Township Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Biwabik Township Hall - 6555 Oak Drive, Gilbert, MN**  
**Monday, December 12, 2022**

**Call to Order:** 5:34 PM by Chairman Hautala

Present: Supervisors Hall, Hautala, and Paris, Clerk Highland, and Treasurer Bluhm  
5 Guests; Kirstie Hall, Chuck & Nita Larson, Tony Nygaard, and Gordy Imberg

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited

**Special Agenda Request:** None

**Minutes:** **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hall to approve the November 14, 2022 Monthly Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Report:** Clerk Highland went over the November Financial Report with the Board.

Opening Balance 11/01/2022	\$ 459,442.48
Receipts	\$ 119,215.29
Disbursements	\$ 59,956.67
Ending Balance 11/30/2022	\$ 518,701.10
Deposits in Transit	\$ - 718.70
Outstanding Checks	\$ 5,047.77
Petty Cash	\$ - 100.00
<b>Total Checking Acct.</b>	<b>\$ 523,030.17</b>
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$ 196,658.61</b>

**Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve the financial report for November 2022 and file it for audit. Motion carried unanimously.

**Claims:** Clerk Highland reviewed the claims with the Board. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hall to approve claims as presented for \$15,302.02. Motion carried unanimously.

**Reports:**

**Road & Equipment-** Plowing and sanding has been done as needed. The crew is getting ready for the first snow storm of the season.

**Fire-** Fire Chief Nygaard reported one call for November, a structure fire in McKinley. Payroll has been turned into the office. There are only seven calls from May – November. The air bottles for our flow test are expiring 12/31/2022. They only have a 15 year life span. Sixteen need replacement and will cost about \$18,500.00. There was discussion on how to possibly replace bottles on a rotation versus replacing 16 at one time every 15 years. Further discussion on setting money aside each year (\$5,000.00) from the budget will be discussed during the Budget Meeting. Chairman Hautala explained currently we need to replace all 16. **Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to purchase 16 new air bottles for \$18,423.84. Motion carried unanimously. The computer has been successfully set up with software today. Nygaard asked for approval to pay that bill. **Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve \$1,220.00 to Northern Minnesota Consulting and Technical Services. Motion carried unanimously. Assistant Chief Josh Olson will be retiring January 2, 2023. The Board will receive letters of interest for the position and appoint accordingly.

**First Responders-** Five calls each for October and November. A total of 35 calls will be submitted for payroll. Matt Saari has applied for the First Responders. **Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to hire Matt Saari as a first responder, pending background check. Motion carried unanimously. Director Larson thanked the Board for the new AEDs.

**Recreation-** Treasurer Bluhm reviewed the financial report for the Halloween party (attached to these minutes). **Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve the Halloween financial report. Motion carried unanimously.

**Cemetery-** No update on map. There was discussion on plowing the cemetery during the winter.

**Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hall to approve the reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business:**

Broadband Info – No update on MediaCom’s grant status.

Gazebo/Shade Area– On hold till Spring.

Parking Lot – On hold till Spring.

Boiler Issues – Approve Plumbing has serial and model number for the current boiler. Chairman Hautala explained the boiler system runs, but doesn’t heat. Supervisor Hall feels we should just replace the boiler. We probably could have replaced it already for how much we have put into the current system. Hautala agreed on replacement. There was discussion on the bidding threshold and if it was needed for this project. Hall will contact Approve Plumbing.

Cemetery Tree Removal Quote – No local interest in taking the trees. Supervisor Hall will contact Calgaro.

Trailer Insurance – Has been added.

AWAIR – Supervisor Paris reported he has reviewed accident procedures with the Road and Bridge Crew. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hall to approve the AWAIR report for 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

Resolution 2022-10 Close Willow Lane – **Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to adopt Resolution 2022-10 closing Willow Lane on January 3, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2022-11 Polling Place – **Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to adopt Resolution 2022-11 designating the Town Hall as the polling place for 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Safety Payroll – **Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve the Public Safety semi-annual payroll for December 16, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

Noxious Weed Report – Supervisor Paris submitted the noxious weed report for 2022. Chairman Hautala signed it and Clerk Highland will mail it.

Other Concerns –

Chuck Larson would like to clear snow for the township now that he is retiring. He is already on the payroll for public safety so we don't have to go through the hiring process. Options for High-Vis jackets were discussed. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hall to order long high-vis jackets with Biwabik Township embossed and have Merritt and Bernard select a pair of winter Carhartt bibs. Motion carried unanimously.

**Correspondence:** The correspondence was reviewed by the Board. No action.

- St. Louis County
  - County Fair Donation Request
  - North Soil & Water Cons. District Open House – Dec 20, 2022
- ICO - Tax-exempt
- SOS – March Election Information
- RAMS – Misc Emails
- MPCA – Notice of Hearing
- MATIT – Worker's Comp Payroll Audit

**Hall Rentals:**

- Pot Luck 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month @ Noon
- Bol Family – Saturday, January 14, 2022
- Kris Edstrom – Saturday, January 21, 2022

**Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve hall rentals. Motion carried unanimously.

**Comments from the Audience:** Kirstie Hall is concerned about people speeding on Juniper Lane. Supervisor Paris explained we do not have authority to enforce speed limits. There was discussion about placing a Seeing Impaired/Blind Person Area sign at the intersection. There used to be one there, but was taken down years ago.

**Adjourn: Motion** by Supervisor Paris to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Hautala adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Walter W. Hautala  
Chairperson:

1/16/2023  
Date:

E. Highland  
Attest by Clerk:



